

Manual EXERCISE And Evolutions Of the CAVALRY.

As Practised in the Late *American Army*.

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Manual Exercise, &c.
Of the
CAVALRY

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Directions *for forming* Companies *and* Squadrons.

It is presumed that the Troopers are taught to ride, and the horses dressed, in order to perform the following exercises.

Proper arms for Troopers are a sword, and pistols; the sword is to be placed on the man's left thigh, the point something lower than the hilt; as to the placing of the pistols, and other accoutrements, it is so generally known, it will be unnecessary to mention it.

When a Company is ordered to draw out to exercise, the Troopers are to parade at the Captain's quarters, or to place appointed by him, completely armed and accoutered; the Lieutenants, Cornet, and other Officers of the Company, are to be there at the time appointed; from which place the Captain, or Officer commanding the Troop, is to march them to the general place of parade, where they are to form into squadrons.

A Regiment, consisting of nine Troops, is formed into three squadrons, three Troops in each; the first squadron, three Troops in each; the first squadron is composed of the first, fourth, and seventh Captains' Troops; the second squadron of the second, fifth, and eighth Captains' Troops; the third of the third, sixth, and ninth Captains' Troops.

A Regiment of eight Troops is formed into two squadrons; the first is composed of the first, third, fifth and seventh Captains' Troops; the second is composed of the second, fourth, sixth and eighth Captains' Troops.

When the Troops are come to the general place of parade, to form into squadrons, they are to draw up in ranks, two deep, and to complete their files.

The Officers are to remain at the head of their Troops; the Captain in the centre, the first Lieutenant on the right, the first Lieutenant on the right, the second Lieutenant and Cornet on the left, and

¹ [Editor Note. Editions of this same manual also appeared in 1787, 1788, 1792, and 1795.]

the serjeants in the rear of the Troop: Care is to be taken that the Troops are well sized, the tallest men and horses in the front.

The troops that compose the several squadrons, are to draw up, in the following manner in squadrons, viz.

A Regiment, consisting of three squadrons, is to be drawn up as follows: The eldest squadron is on the right, the second on the left, and the youngest in the centre. The intervals between each squadron is to be equal to the ground one squadron stands on; the distance drawn up in squadrons, is to be at, *Open Order*, which is explained as follows, viz.

The several distances between the ranks are, *Open Order*; *Order*; *Close Order*; and, *Close to the Croup*.

Open Order, Is the distance between each rank when drawn up in squadrons, which distance must be equal to half the front of the squadron.

Order, Is the distance the ranks are to be at when the squadrons march, which is to be equal to a third of the front.

Close Order, Is the distance the ranks are to be at moving to an enemy, which distance is, that four men may just wheel around.

Close to the Croup, Is as close as they can be, in which position they are to charge.

When the squadrons are formed, the Major, or Adjutant, that is to exercise the Regiment, is to order the Officers to take their posts, by saying, *Officers to your Posts*. The Officers of each squadron are to take their posts at the head of their squadrons, by seniority of Commission; that is, the eldest Captain on the right; the second eldest on the left; the next eldest on the right; and so on, until the youngest is in the centre; taking care to divide the ground equally between them, so as to cover the front of the squadron. When the Officers have taken their posts, they are to dress in the same rank, and to be advanced horse's length before the front rank of the men. The Quartermaster is to post himself in the rear of the Regiment, a horse's length behind the rear rank. The Trumpets are to draw up on the right of their squadrons, even with the front rank of men, leaving a small interval between them and their squadrons.

As soon as the Officers are spotted in the manner aforesaid, the standards are to be sent for, in the following manner; the Trumpets are to be ordered to the centre squadron, where they are to be formed into a rank, according to their number, all facing outward; this being done, the Major, or Adjutant, is to order the eldest Cornet of the said squadron to march for the standards, with the Quartermaster and four, five, or more files, from the centre of that squadron, the Cornet marching at the head of the said detachment, the Trumpets before him, and the Quartermaster in the rear of the whole. When the Cornet comes to the place where the standards are lodged, which is always at the Colonel's, or Commanding Officer's quarters; he is to form his detachment into a rank entire facing the house, by saying, *To the right, (or left, according as it stands) forming a rank entire—March*. The trumpets are to form into a rank entire with the detachment. When this is done, the Cornet is to order the detachment (the men that are to carry the standards excepted) to draw their swords; (it being the custom of the Cavalry to go for the standards without the sound of trumpets or drawn swords) which being done, and the standards received, which must be by those of the front rank, he is to form his detachment, by these Words of Command, *To the right (or left) form your ranks—March*; at which the Trumpets are to form as before; the Cornet is then to march back to the Regiment with the standard, Trumpets sounding a march; but instead of marching along the front of the Regiment, as they do in the foot, he is to march along the rear until he comes to the interval which was made by their marching out, and then he is to wheel and march his men into their former places. As soon as the standards are come near the Regiment, the Major or Adjutant is to order the men to draw their swords, which is a ceremony always to be paid to the standards, both in bringing them to and carrying them from the Regiment; when the standards are come, the eldest Cornets of the right and left squadrons are to march with three men from the centre of the front rank, along the front, and when they come opposite the

standards they are to halt, and to order those men, that are to carry the standards, to return their swords, and take their several standards. The Cornets are then to march back with their standards, taking with them their respective trumpets, who are to sound a march; and as soon as they are got to the centre of the intervals, between the squadrons, they are to wheel to the rear, and march until they come opposite to the intervals, and then to wheel to their squadrons; those belonging to the front rank, to march between the ranks until they come to their places, and then wheel up; the trumpets are to go to their posts, and the regiment to return their swords. When they are returned (that is the standards) it is to be done in the same manner they were brought, and by the same persons.

N.B. Before the standards are carried to the centre squadrons, the Major, or Adjutant, is to order the Regiment to draw their swords; as soon as they are gone, to return them.

A Regiment of two squadrons, must send a detachment from the first squadron, for the standards; all the other ceremonies are as before mentioned.

THE standard being brought to their respective squadrons, the next thing to be done is the telling off, or dividing the several squadrons into proper divisions for the exercise. First, each squadron is to be told off by files; then ranks by fours; quarter ranks; ranks by three divisions; and half ranks.

Telling off by Files.

You begin at the right of each squadron, and say to the right hand files, *You stand*; to the second, *You move*; and so on through the squadrons.

Rank by Fours.

You begin at the right of each rank, and say to the first man, *You are the right hand man of ranks by fours*; to the fourth man, *You are the left hand man of ranks by fours*; to the fifth man, *You are the right hand man*, &c. to the eighth, *You are the left hand man*, &c. to the ninth, *You are the right*, &c. &c. and so on through the squadron.

Quarter Ranks.

Each squadron is to be divided into four equal parts, which are told off, first, second, third, and fourth ranks; beginning at the right, by saying to the right hand man, *You are the right hand man of the first quarter rank*; and to the left hand man of that quarter rank, *You are the left*; and so on to the rest in the same order.

Ranks of three Divisions.

Each squadron is to be divided into three equal parts; the right and left hand men are to be told off in the same manner as the others.

Ranks by two Divisions.

Each squadron is to be divided into two equal parts; the right and left hand men are to be told off as before.

The easiest method of telling them off.

The Major, or Adjutant, is to order the rear rank to close to the Croup, at which time the Officers are to advance so far that the Major, or Adjutant, may go with ease between them and the front rank; by the ranks being closed, the telling them off in the front will serve for the other ranks. When they are told off, the ranks are to open backward to *Open Order*, and the Officers at the same time are to rein back to their proper distance.

RULES for WHEELING.

WHEN you wheel to the right, you close to the right, and look to the left; and when you wheel to the left, you close to the left, and look to the right; this rule will serve for all wheelings by ranks; but when you wheel by squadrons or divisions, the following rules must be observed.

When you wheel by squadrons, or divisions, the two ranks wheel together; the rear rank wheeling directly in the front rank, keeping their proper distance, and each man covering his file leader; the rear rank taking particular care not to close their ranks in wheeling, but to keep directly behind their file leaders. All wheelings are to be done briskly, but no man to exceed a large trot.

The Major, or Adjutant, that is to exercise the Regiment, is to place himself opposite the centre.

The MANUAL EXERCISE on HORSEBACK.

1ST. *Rear rank! move forward to Close Order—March.*

THE rear rank of each squadron march forward, and close so near that only four men may just wheel round between the ranks. The serjeants are to be on the right and left of their respective companies, to give the ranks their proper distance, and to dress them, and then repair to their posts in the rear. This movement is to be done at a walk, and the men are to observe their right and left hand men, that the ranks may be even in marching.

2d. *Officers rein back into the front rank.*

At this word of command the front rank of each squadron is to open a little to the right and left, to make proper intervals for the Officers to fall into, and the Officers are to wait for the following word of command—

3d. *March.*

4th. *Shorten your Bridles.*

Five Motions.

1st. Seize the upper end of the reins of bridle, which is to lie on the right hand. D. Bring it up as you're your chin, keeping your right elbow on a level with the shoulder, which is called square. 3d. Slip your left along the reins of the bridle, and take hold of the loop, or button, which is near the upper end of the reins. 4th. Slip the loop down with the left hand as low as the pommel of the saddle. 5th. Bring the right hand down, with life, on the right holster cap.

5th. *Join your right hand too your Swords.*

One Motion.

Bring your right hand over your left arm, which arm you are to press close to your left side, and seize the handle of your sword with a full hand. The Officers to do the same.

6th. *Draw your Swords.*

Two Motions.

1st Draw your swords quite out of the scabbard, by raising up your right hand as high as your arm will permit, and keep the point of the sword a little higher than the hilt. 2d. Bring your right hand to your right side, placing the inside of the hilt on the outside of your right thigh, the wrist bending a little out,

raising the point pretty high, and running in a line with the right ear of the horse, with the edge from you. Officers do the same.

7th. Place your Swords in the bridle hand.

Two Motions.

1st. Bring up the sword opposite to the centre of the body, resting the pommel on the fore part of the saddle, the broad part of the blade towards you, and the point upright; at the same time you are to slip your left hand along the reins of the bridle as high as your shoulder, and seize the blade with the left hand, keeping the reins between the palm and it, and squaring your left elbow. 2d. Quit the sword with the right hand, and bring it to its proper place.

8th. Recover your Swords.

Two Motions.

1st. Seize the handle of the sword with the right, grasping it with the thumb upwards. 2d. Bring your swords to your right thigh, as in Example 6th. at the same time slip down your left hand, and take hold of the bridle at the proper place.

9th. Point your Swords.

One Motion.

Bring your swords over your left arm and enter the point in the scabbard, and thrust it in so far that you may look over the right arm. The Officers to perform this motion with the men.

10th. Return your Swords.

Two Motions.

1st. Thrust your swords up to the hilt. 2d. Bring your hand back to its proper place. Officers do the same.

11th. Handle your right Pistols.

One Motion.

Bring your right hand round, turning the back towards you, and seize the butt of the right pistol with a full hand.

12th. Draw your Right Pistols.

One Motion.

Draw your right pistols out of the holster and bring it to the right side of the sword, extending your arm directly before you, with the muzzle upwards.

13th. Cock your Pistols.

Two Motions.

1st. Bring your pistols close to your breast, keeping the muzzle upwards, and place your thumb on the cock. 2d Throw off the pistols to their former place, cock them at the same time, and slip your thumbs off the cock.

14th. *Take aim.*

One Motion.

Drop the muzzle with the barrel upwards, and place the fore finger of the right hand before the trigger.

15th. *Fire.*

One Motion.

Draw the trigger, but if it misfires, you are not to draw it a second time.

16th. *Return your Pistols.*

Three Motions.

1st. Place the muzzle of the pistol in the holster, the back of your hand turned towards you. 2d. Thrust it quite down. 3d. Quit the pistol, and bring your right hand to its proper place.

17th. *Handle your left Pistols.*

One Motion.

18th. *Draw your Pistols.*

One Motion.

19th. *Cock your Pistols.*

Two Motions.

20th. *Take aim.*

One Motion.

21st. *Fire.*

One Motion.

22d. *Return your Pistols.*

Three Motions.

23d. *Officers, move into the front—March.*

The commissioned Officers are to march out of the ranks, the Cornets bringing the standards with them, and place themselves at the head of the squadron. As soon as the Officers are clear of the men, the front ranks are to close the intervals made by the Officers to the centre.

24th. *Rear rank, rein back to Open Order—March.*

The rear rank of each squadron are to rein back very slow in a direct line to the former ground, the serjeants taking care to keep the ranks even.

EVOLUTIONS of the HORSE.

1st. *Officers! Take your posts in the front—March.*

THE commissioned Officers march strait [sic] forward; the Cornets carry the standards until they pass the Major or Adjutant, that exercises the Regiment, eight or ten paces, and then stand.

2d. *Halt.*

The Officers of the right squadron are to face to the left about; the Officers of the left squadron are to face to the right about; and those of the centre to the right and left about, that is, half one way and half the other. The trumpets are to march with the Officers, and draw up in the rear of them, as soon as the word Halt is given, where they are to remain.

3d. *Rear rank, move forward to Order—March.*

The serjeants to be on the flanks of the respective squadrons, to see that the ranks keep their proper distance, and to make them dress.

4th. *Rear rank, move forward to Close Order—March.*

5th. *Rear rank, Close to the Croup—March.*

6th. *Rear rank, rein back to the Close Order—March.*

7th. *Rear rank, rein back to Order—March.*

8th. *Rear rank, rein back to Open Order—March.*

9th. *Front rank, rein back to Order—March.*

10th. *Front rank, rein back to Close Order—March.*

11th. *Front rank, rein back to the Croup—March.*

12th. *Front rank, move forward to the Close Order—March.*

13th. *Front rank, move forward to the Order—March.*

14th. *Front rank, move forward to the Open Order—March.*

15th. *Rear rank, move forward to Order—March.*

16th. *Squadrons, to the right, open your Files—March.*

The right hand of each squadron is to passage to the right very slow, and as soon as it is got such a distance from the second file, that a horse can move between them, the second is to move the same way, and so on, until the whole is opened.

17th. *Halt.*

18th. *To the left, close your Files—March.*

The left hand file of each squadron stands fast; all the rest passage at the same time to the left, very slow; but they are not to close their files until the file on the left stands.

19th. *To the left, open your Files—March.*

[See Example 16th.]

20th. *Halt.*

21st. *To the right, close your Files—March.*

[See Example 18th.]

22d. *To the right and left, open your Files—March.*

See Examples 18th and 19th. When the two files in the centre are opened, then proceed to the next word of command.

24th. *Close your files to the centre—March.*

All files are to move at the same time, and close by passage to the centre of their squadrons; and observe further, as in Example 18th.

25th. *Rank, countermarch to the left—March.*

The right hand file of each squadron moves directly forward, about a horse's length before that rank, and the rear man a horse's length before the rear rank, and then they passage in a direct line to the left; and as soon as that file begins to move, all the rest are to passage to the right; and when the second file comes to the ground where the first file stood, it is to move up as the first did, and passage to the left; and so on, until the whole is come up into the same ranks, and then they all stand a little while, and rein back to the ground the ranks stood on before.

N. B. *The Serjeants are to be on the flanks, to mark out the ground, which will be a great help, but they are not to speak to the men.*

26th *Ranks, countermarch to the right—March.*

This is performed like the 25th Example, only the left hand file of each squadron moves forward.

27th. *Ranks, from the right and left, countermarch to the centre—March.*

The right and left hand files of each squadron move out, as before explained, and passage to right and left, inwards; the rest divide in the centre, and passage to the right and left, outwards.

28th. *Files to the right, double—March.*

The 2d, 4th, 6th, and every even file of each squadron, are to rein back in a strait line, until they come to the centre of the interval between each rank, then to passage a little to the right, and cover the men that stood on their right. This movement brings each squadron into four ranks, or four deep, with their files open.

29th. *Files, that doubled, to the left, form as you were—March.*

The files, that doubled, passage a little to the left, to bring them opposite to their former places, and then move into them pretty briskly; but all at the same time.

30th. *Files, to the left, double—March.*

The 1st, 3d, 5th, and every odd file, rein back, and cover the men that stood on their left.

31st. *Files, that doubled, to the right, form as you were—March.*

The files that double, passage a little to right, and then move into their former places.

32d. *Second and fourth quarter ranks, to the right, double your Files—March.*

The 2d and 4th quarter ranks, of each squadron, rein back to the centre of the intervals between the ranks and then passage to the right, until the right hand file of the second quarter rank comes opposite to the right hand file of the first quarter rank; and the right hand file of the fourth quarter rank comes opposite to the right hand file of the third quarter rank, and then halt; taking care to dress their ranks and files. This movement must be done together, that they may all begin and finish at the same time. In the passage, they are not to open their files, but keep as close as they can, without treading on one another; this forms each squadron into two divisions, and each division four deep.

33d. *Quarter ranks, that doubled, to the left, form as you were—March.*

The quarter that doubled, passage to the left, very slow, in a direct line, and when they come opposite to their former ground, or interval, they are to move up into their places. Observe further, as in the foregoing article.

34th. *First and third quarter ranks, to the left, double your Files—March.*

The first and third quarter ranks, of each squadron, rein back, and passage to the left, and double the second and fourth quarter ranks. Observe further, as in Example 32d.

35th. *Quarter ranks that doubled, to the right, form as you were—March.*

The quarter ranks that doubled, passage to the right, and move up into their former places, as in Example 33d.

36th. *Wheel to the right about—March.*

37th. *Wheel to the right about—March.*

Each of these is half a circle.

38th. *Squadrons, to the right, wheel the circle entire—March.*

The squadrons are to wheel to the right, quite round, until they come to their proper front.

39th. *Squadrons, to the left, wheel the circle entire—March.*

They are to wheel to the left, quite round, until they come to their former ground.

WORDS of COMMAND for DISMOUNTING and MOUNTING the HORSE.

1ST. *Quit your Stirrups.*

Three Motions.

1st. Take your foot out of the stirrup, at the same time thrusting, forward your bridle hand, and keeping the reins fast. 2d. Take a lock of the horse's mane with the right hand, and place it in the left hand, over the bridle, and grasp it fast with the left hand. 3d. Take hold with the right hand, the pommel of the saddle, placing your fingers on the inside, and your thumb on the outside.

2. *Dismount.*

Three Motions.

As this is part of what a man is taught in riding, it will not be necessary to mention the particulars.

3d. *Link your Horses to the right.*

The men face to the right about, on the left heel, and give the reins of their bridle to their right hand men, who are to fasten them to the left cheek of their horse's bridle.

4th. *Unlink your Horses.*

The men unfasten their bridles, and throw them over the right side of the horse's neck, and take hold of the left cheek of their horse's bridle with the left hand.

5th. *Files, to the right, double—March.*

Every, even file reins back, as in Example 28th, of the Evolutions.

6th. *Face to the left about.*

They all face to the left about, on the right heel, taking hold of the left cheek of the bridle with the right hand.

7th. *Shorten your Bridles.*

The Officers and men face to the right about, on the left heel, taking hold of the reins of their bridle with the left hand, and shortening them to a proper length; and with the right hand take part of the horse's mane, and place it in the left, upon the bridle, and facing full to the rear.

8th. *Your left foot in the Stirrup.*

Two Motions.

1st. Take hold of the stirrup with the right hand, and place the left foot in it. 2d. Come to the left side of the horse, with a hop, and take hold of the cantle, or hind part of the saddle, with the right hand, the left knee touching the horse's side, and looking full to the right of the squadron. The Officers are to do the same.

9th. *Mount.*

Two Motions.

As this part of what a man is taught in riding, it will not be necessary to mention the particulars, &c.

INSTRUCTIONS for OFFICER *in their respective Troops.*

Every Captain is to exercise his respective Troop, the same as a Major, or Adjutant, does a Regiment. The same Words of Command will answer, with very little variation, which will easily be rectified.

The Cornets are to carry the standards, and, when on their march, ride in the centre of the Troop, with the second Lieutenant.

The Serjeants are to ride two in front, and two in the rear; the four Corporals are to compose the two right hand files of the Company; the Trumpets are to form to the right of the Corporals.

FINIS.

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